

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5110

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA KS KN

SUBJ: KOREA CORE GROUP CONSULTATIONS: ROKG VIEWS

REFS: (A) STATE 163692, (B) USUN 8150

SUMMARY: FONMIN PARK CALLED ME IN JULY 3 TO DISCUSS JULY 1 CORE GROUP MEETING (REF B). HE RAISED THREE ISSUES: (1) US VIEWS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION; (2) REASONS FOR US POSITION ON PRIORITY FOR DRAFT RESOLUTION; AND (3) TIMING AND SUBSTANCE OF POLITICAL INITIATIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. PARK SAID THAT DRAFT TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION (PARA 2 REF B) IS SATISFACTORY TO ROKG PROVIDED US HAS NO OBJECTIONS OR PROPOSED CHANGES. HE NOTED THAT US REP AT CORE GROUP DID NOT REPEAT NOT EXPRESS US VIEWS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION AND ASKED WHEN WE WOULD MAKE DECISION. HE REQUESTED RESPONSE EARLIEST ON US VIEWS RE REF SOLUTION.

2. PARK SAID THAT HE WAS SURPRISED BY APPARENT CHANGE IN US POSITION ON QUESTION OF SEEKING PRIORITY FOR DRAFT RESOLUTION. INITIALLY ROKG HAD URGED THAT WE NOT REPEAT NOT SEEK PRIORITY, IN INTEREST OF BEING CONSISTENT WITH POSITION THAT WE WISH TO AVOID CONFRONTATION ON KOREA AT UNGA. ROKG, HOWEVER, HAD IMPRESSION USG HAD CONCLUDED CONFRONTATION COULD NOT BE AVOIDED AND THEREFORE WE SHOULD SEEK PRIORITY. ON THIS BASIS FONMIN HAD GONE TO PRESIDENT PARK RECOMMENDING CHANGE IN KOREAN POSITION AND PRESIDENT PARK
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HAD AGREED. FONMIN FRANKLY FINDS HIMSELF IN SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING

POSITION VIS-A-VIS PRESIDENT PARK AND ASKED FOR REASONS FOR US APPARENT CHANGE IN DECISION.

3. DRAWING ON REF A, I PROVIDED REASONS FOR USG VIEW AND, IN EFFORT TO ASSIST PARK WITH HIS INTERNAL PROBLEMS, SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS USG HAD BEEN CONVINCED OF VALIDITY ROKG POSITION ABOUT SAME TIME ROKG HAD CHANGED ITS VIEW ON PRIORITY. WHETHER COMPLETELY ACCURATE OR NOT, THIS EXPLANATION WAS WELCOMED WITH RELIEF BY PARK.

4. PARK THEN ASKED WHETHER WE HAD ALREADY EXPLORED WITH ASEANS AND OTHERS QUESTION OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATION. I SAID THAT I WOULD SEEK INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON BUT DID NOT THINK SO IN SPECIFIC CONTEXT OF PRIORITY QUESTION. I THEN ASKED PARK WHAT WOULD BE ROKG PREFERRED POSITION ON PRIORITY. FONMIN RESPONDED THAT, ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL, HE PERSONALLY WOULD PREFER NOT PUSHING QUICKLY FOR PRIORITY SO AS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR GENERAL POSITION OF TRYING TO AVOID CONFRONTATION, PROVIDED IT DID NOT JEOPARDIZE OUR CHANCES FOR INSCRIBING THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN KEEP ROKG ON BOARD ON THIS ISSUE IF WE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE ARE IN EFFECT BOWING TO THEIR FORMER WISHES. END COMMENT.

5. WITH RESPECT POLITICAL INITIATIVE, PARK URGED THAT WE TAKE THIS ACTION IN VERY NEAR FUTURE BEFORE NORTH KOREAN DRAFT RESOLUTION IS SUBMITTED TO UNGA, PARTICULARLY IF WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT SEEK PRIORITY FOR OUR RESOLUTION. WE COULD THEN AGREE THAT NORTH KOREANS FORCING CONFRONTATION. HE ALSO PRESSED HARD THAT INITIATIVE INCLUDE SOME ELEMENTS ADDITIONAL TO RESTATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 22, 197). 04909 -). SPECIFICALLY, HE SUGGESTED THREE ELEMENTS: (1) ADDITION OF SPECIFIC TIME AND PLACE FOR AT LEAST PREPARATORY MEETING AS PROPOSED BY UK;

(2) CALL FOR AVOIDING CONFRONTATION ON KOREAN QUESTION IN UNGA; AND

(3) REITERATION THAT THERE IS NO REPEAT NO OTHER WAY TO SOLVE KOREAN QUESTION THAN THROUGH NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND CONFERENCE OF PARTIES CONCERNED. HE FELT THAT THESE ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS WOULD ADD SUFFICIENT FRESHNESS TO SEPTEMBER 22 PROPOSALS WITHOUT CHANGING OR DETRACTING FROM THEIR SUBSTANCE OR GETTING US INVOLVED

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IN SUCH COMPLEX PROPOSALS AS NNSC AND CANADIAN SUGGESTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISORY FORCE.

6. PARK REQUESTED EARLIEST POSSIBLE REPLY ON ABOVE ISSUES SINCE HE IS ON HOOK TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT PARK SOONEST.

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